

House Joint Resolution 2004 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2004
BY MASCHER

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States
2 to submit to the States for ratification a campaign finance
3 restriction and disclosure amendment to the United States
4 Constitution.
5 WHEREAS, the influx of large contributions in election
6 campaigns is having an increasingly pernicious effect on
7 American politics; and
8 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is unable and unwilling
9 to enact meaningful campaign finance reform; and
10 WHEREAS, meaningful campaign finance reform requires
11 constitutional change; NOW THEREFORE,
12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 That the Congress of the United States is hereby petitioned
2 to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to do
4 all of the following:

5 1. Prohibit all campaign contributions or donations of any
6 kind from foreign persons or entities in federal elections.

7 2. Prohibit corporations and political action committees
8 from making expenditures with respect to such elections.

9 3. Prohibit government contractors from making expenditures
10 with respect to such elections.

11 4. Establish additional disclosure and reporting
12 requirements for federal elections.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, alternatively, pursuant
14 to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
15 General Assembly, as the Legislature of the State of Iowa,
16 makes application to the Congress of the United States to
17 call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of
18 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
19 States, for submission to the states for ratification, which is
20 substantially similar to the amendment proposed in this Joint
21 Resolution; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if, within sixty days after
23 the legislatures of two-thirds of the states make application
24 for such convention, Congress proposes and submits to the
25 states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the
26 United States which is substantially similar to the amendment
27 proposed in this Joint Resolution, then this application for a
28 convention shall no longer be of any force and effect; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application constitutes
30 a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
31 Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of
32 the legislatures of the several states have made application
33 for a similar convention under Article V, or the Congress has
34 proposed the amendment called for by this Joint Resolution, or
35 the General Assembly acts to withdraw this application; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State
2 shall transmit certified copies of this Joint Resolution
3 to the President and Secretary of the United States
4 Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of
5 Representatives, each member of the Iowa delegation to the
6 Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of each state
7 legislature in the United States.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the Congress
10 of the United States to propose a constitutional amendment
11 to prohibit contributions from foreign persons and entities
12 in federal elections, to prohibit government contractors,
13 corporations, and political action committees from making
14 expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish
15 additional disclosure and reporting requirements for such
16 elections.

17 Alternatively, the resolution is an application to the
18 Congress from the State of Iowa, as required by Article V of
19 the Constitution of the United States, calling upon Congress
20 to convene a constitutional convention concerning the proposed
21 amendment.